

Amdt. dated July 7, 2004
Reply to Final Office action of April 7, 2004

Serial No. 09/865,043
Docket No. AM997158US2
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On June 7, 2004, the attorney for Applicants and the Examiner held a phone interview discussing the Final Office Action. The Examiner suggested adding the requirements of claims 36, 46, and 56 to independent claims 30, 40, and 50, to replace "print job" for "task" and "printer" for "device". Applicants submit that the Examiner should enter this amendment because by adding the requirements of dependent claims to independent claims, Applicants are not adding new matter that would require further searching.

Applicants further canceled claims 36, 46, and 56, whose requirements were added to the independent claims, and amended claims 32-35, 39, 42-45, 49, 52-55, and 59 to replace "print job" for "task" and "printer" for "device" to make the dependent claims consistent with the amended independent claims. Applicants further amended claims 37, 38, 47, 48, 57, and 58 to change the dependency from the canceled claims to the independent claims. Applicants submit that all these amendments should be entered because they are necessitated by adding the requirements of dependent claims 36, 46, and 56 to the independent claims and are made to maintain the dependent claims consistent with the independent claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 30-59 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Shalit (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,971) in view of Williams (U.S. Patent No. 6,043,816). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Amended independent claims 30, 40, and 50 concern executing print jobs with printers, and require: displaying a first tree view of a hierarchy of a first set of user selectable elements representing printers in a first pane of a graphical user interface (GUI) window; displaying a second tree view of a hierarchy of a second set of user selectable elements representing print jobs capable of being executed by the printers in a second pane of the GUI window; and receiving indication of user selection of one of the print jobs displayed in the second pane and one of the printers displayed in the first pane to cause the selected printer to execute the selected print job.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner cited col. 6, lines 9-67 as teaching the claim requirement of displaying a first tree view of a hierarchy of a first set of user selectable elements representing printers in a first pane of a graphical user interface (GUI) window. (Final Office Action, pg. 6). Applicants traverse.

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The cited col. 6 discusses object content displayed in a left pane. The user clicks on the output icon of the left pane, drags to the input icon of the right pane, and then releases the mouse to open the selected object and display its content in the right pane. (Shalit, col. 6, lines 9-20) The cited col. 6 further mentions how the second pane is dynamically linked to the first to display the contents of the selected file in the first pane. The cited col. 6 further talks about how the selected object may be displayed. The cited FIGs. 5a, 5b, 5c shows the display of content of the object in the left pane, and that if the object is opened, the contents are displayed in a right pane. The cited FIGs. 5a, 5b, 5c further displays selected parts inline in the same pane.

Nowhere in this cited Shalit is there any teaching or suggestion of displaying in a hierarchy elements in a first pane of a GUI that represent printers. Instead, the cited col. 6 of Shalit discusses how contents of a selected object in a first pane may be displayed in a second pane. Further, nowhere does this cited col. 6 anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirements that the selected printer is used to execute a selected print job in another tree view.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner said that Applicants had argued that there is no suggestion to combine Williams and Shalit. (Final Office Action, pg. 7). Applicants submit that this characterization of Applicants' arguments is incorrect, and that Applicants instead argued that the specific cited sections of Williams and Shalit fail to teach the claim requirements for which they were cited. Applicants did not argue that there was no suggestion to combine Williams and Shalit. Instead, Applicants explained in detail why the specific cited sections of Shalit and Williams fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the claim requirements for which they were cited. Applicants explain below why the cited Williams and Shalit fail to teach the requirements of the amended independent claims.

For instance, with respect to Shalit, Applicants note that Examiner cited col. 2, lines 8-56 of Shalit as teaching the claim requirement of displaying a first tree view of a hierarchy of a first set of user selectable elements representing printers in a first pane of a graphical user interface (GUI) window. (Final Office Action, pgs. 2-3). Applicants traverse and submit that nowhere does the cited Shalit teach or suggest a first tree view of user selectable elements representing printers. The cited col. 2 mentions a window or pane in which an object may be dropped. (Shalit, col. 2, lines 8-14). The cited Shalit further mentions dragging an output icon in a first pane to the input icon of the second pane to link the selected item in the first pane to the second

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pane so that display of the second pane displays the linked item in the first pane. (Shalit, col. 2, lines 13-38). An object may also be dragged and dropped on the input icon to cause the contents of the selected object to replace the set of objects on display in the pane. (Shalit, col. 2, lines 46-57).

Nowhere in this cited Shalit is there any teaching or suggestion of displaying in a hierarchy elements in a first pane of a GUI that represent printers. Instead, the cited col. 2 of Shalit discusses how to link a window with content of another window or replacing contents of one window with another.

The Examiner cited col. 4, lines 43-67 of Shalit as teaching the claim requirement of displaying a second tree view of a hierarchy of a second set of user selectable elements representing print jobs capable of being executed by the printers in a second pane of the GUI window. (Final Office Action, pg. 3) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 4 of Shalit discusses a window having split bar functions to split the window into different panes or panes into sub-panes. The window 30 in FIG. 3a shows different objects. However, nowhere does this cited col. 4 anywhere teach, suggest or mention the claim requirement of displaying in a second tree view elements representing print jobs capable of being executed by printers in a second pane of the GUI. Nowhere does the cited Shalit anywhere teach or suggest different hierarchical tree views of printers in the first tree view comprising printers and in another tree view print jobs capable of being executed by printers in the first pane. Instead, the cited Shalit just discusses an appearance of a split screen window having different and separate panels with different objects.

The Examiner cited col. 4, lines 4-67 of Williams as teaching the claim requirement of receiving indication of user selection of one of the print jobs displayed in the second pane and one of the printers displayed in the first pane to cause the selected printer to execute the selected print job. (Final Office Action, pg. 3) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 4 discusses how a GUI window can display navigation tabs for applications to allow the user to navigate to different locations in the user interface. This is shown in FIG. 1a of Williams, where the navigation tab 11 can be selected to show information in the content area associated with the selected application. The navigation tabs are used to provide status

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information on locations in the application through symbols, etc. The symbols can notify the user of operational status and problems. (Williams, col. 4, lines 39-67).

Nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere teach, suggest or even mention the claim requirements of receiving indication of user selection of one of the print jobs displayed in the second pane and one of the printers displayed in the first pane to cause the selected printer to execute the selected print job. Nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere disclose how a user can select print jobs in one pane and a printer in another pane to cause that printer to execute the selected print job. Instead, the cited Williams discusses the use of navigation tabs to allow the user to display operational status info for a particular application.

Accordingly, amended claims 30, 40, and 50 are patentable over the cited art because the cited references alone and in combination do not teach or suggest all the claim requirements.

Claims 31-35, 37-39, 41-45, 47-49, 51-55, and 57-59 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from claims 30, 40, and 50, which are patentable over the cited art⁴ for the reasons discussed above. Moreover, the below discussed claims provide further grounds of distinction over the cited art.

Claims 31, 41, and 51 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require receiving indication of user selection of one of the selectable elements displayed in the first pane or the second pane; and displaying additional data related to the user selected element in a third pane in the GUI window, wherein the third pane is capable of displaying additional data related to selectable elements the user selected in the first and second panes.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner cited col. 7, lines 1-50 of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Final Office Action, pgs. 7-8) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 7 of Williams discusses a panel showing an installation progress bar in FIG. 3a. The cited col. 7 discusses two navigation tabs at the bottom of the content area, one for the current location of the application and one that keeps accessible the previous task. The user can then navigate to a new location shown in FIG. 3b to set SNMP configurations, and the installation task could present a symbol while the user is setting the SNMP configurations indicating the installation completed.

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Although the cited col. 7 discusses how a tab can provide the status of the installation operation while viewing the SNMP configuration panel in FIG. 3b, nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirement of displaying additional data related to selected elements in first and second panes. Instead, the cited Williams discusses providing status about an application executing when viewing a window concerning a different operation.

The Examiner further cited col. 6, lines 1-65 of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of claims 31, 41, and 51. (Final Office Action, pg. 4). Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 6 discusses the GUIs of FIGs. 2a and 2b in which the user can select tasks from a left pane and display information on the selected task in a right pane. The content area in the right pane displays settings for a task. The tabs in the right pane, such as tabs 11 and 12 in FIGs. 2a and 2b, allow the user to navigate between tasks.

Nowhere does this cited col. 6 anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirement that a third pane displays additional data related to selectable elements in the first and second panes. Instead, the cited col. 6 discusses user selection of task elements in a left navigation pane, e.g., pane 16 in FIG. 2a, and displaying information in pane 14 in FIG. 2a. Nowhere does the cited Williams teach or suggest that the right pane 14 display information on elements from first and second panes as claimed, but instead only shows displaying information on elements selected from a single left pane.

Claims 34, 44, and 54 depend from claims 33, 43, and 53. Claims 33, 43, and 53 further require that the additional data displayed in the third pane in response to user selection of one selectable element in the second pane representing one print job indicates information on the print job and claims 34, 44, and 54 additionally require that after one print job for which information is displayed has completed executing, displaying the second pane without the selectable element representing the print job that has completed.

The Examiner cited FIG. 3d of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Final Office Action, pg. 4) Applicants traverse.

The cited FIG. 3d shows an installation complete message displayed in the right pane 14 for the install task of SNMP parameters, as discussed in col. 7 of Williams. However, nowhere does the cited Williams anywhere teach or suggest that after one print job for which information is displayed has completed, displaying the second pane without the selectable element

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representing the print job that has completed. Instead, the cited Williams just displays an installation complete message, but does not remove the previous selectable element on the print job that has completed.

In fact, Williams teaches away from this claim requirement, because Williams continues to display a selectable element for the task after the task has completed, such as the elements 12 shown in FIGs. 3c and 3d for before and after the installation completes.

Accordingly, claims 34, 44, and 54 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Claims 35, 45, and 55 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require receiving indication of user selection of one selectable element in the first pane associated with all the user selectable elements representing the printers; and displaying additional data in a third pane indicating an operational status of all the printers represented by user selectable elements displayed in the first pane.

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner cited col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 34 of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. (Final Office Action, pgs. 8-10). Applicants traverse.

The cited cols. 7-8 of Williams discusses how selection of a navigation tab replaces the user interface with a new one. The cited FIGs. 4a-4c show how selection of a folder in the left pane displays the objects in the selected folder, and one may select a navigation tab to go back to displaying the contents of a previously selected folder. Further, an operation "close tab" causes the navigation tab to be removed.

The cited Williams concerns using navigation tabs to toggle between views of the contents of different folders. Nowhere in the cited Williams is there any teaching or suggestion of receiving indication of user selection of one selectable element in the first pane associated with all the user selectable elements representing the printers and then displaying additional data in a third pane indicating an operational status of all the printers represented by user selectable elements displayed in the first pane. Nowhere does the cited Williams teach or suggest displaying data in a third pane indicating the operational status of all the printers presented by the selected elements in the first pane.

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The Examiner further cited col. 8, lines 13-67 of Williams as teaching the additional requirements of these claims. The Examiner further cited FIGs. 6-7. (Final Office Action, pg. 4) Applicants assume the Examiner was citing FIGs. 6 and 7 of Shalit, because Williams does not include a FIGs. 6-7. Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 8 of Williams discusses a close tab that removes the navigation tab. The cited col. 8 further discusses purported benefits of the navigation tabs, such as that they minimize the number of open windows, user actions, etc.

Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach, suggest or mention one selectable element associated with all the user selectable elements in the first pane that when selected causes the display of additional data in a third pane indicating the operational status of all the printers represented by elements in the first pane. Nowhere does the cited col. 8 anywhere teach or suggest how one may cause information on all printers rendered in a first pane to be displayed in a third pane by selecting another element representing all the displayed printers. Instead, the cited col. 8 discusses how to close a navigation tab and the benefits of the navigation tab.

Applicants further submit that FIGs. 6 and 7 of Shalit nowhere disclose selecting one element associated with all printers displayed in a first pane to display information on all the printers in a third pane.

Accordingly, claims 35, 45, and 55 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

Claims 39, 49, and 59 depend from claims 30, 40, and 50 and further require that receiving indication of user selection of one of the print jobs and one of the printers comprises receiving user indication of dragging one print job represented in the second pane and dropping the dragged print job to one printer represented in the first pane. The Examiner cited col. 9, lines 4-59 of Shalit as disclosing the additional requirements of these claims. (Final Office Action, pg. 5) Applicants traverse.

The cited col. 9 of Shalit discusses how one may drag an item selected from a left pane onto an input icon to display the content of the dragged item in a right pane. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 anywhere teach or suggest the claim requirements of dragging one print job to drop on a printer in the second pane to cause the printer to execute the print job. Instead, in the cited col. 9, an item is dropped on an input icon, displayed as an arrow, to cause the display of the

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content of the dragged item in another pane. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 teach or suggest dragging a print job to drop on a printer in another pane to cause that printer to execute the print job.

Accordingly, claims 39, 49, and 59 provide additional grounds of patentability over the cited art.

The Examiner rejected claims 36-38, 46-48, and 56-58 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Shalit, Williams and further in view of Hower (U.S. Patent No. 5,467,434). Applicants traverse.

Applicants added the requirements of claims 36, 46, and 56 to independent claims 30, 40, and 50 and canceled these claims.

During the phone interview, the Examiner indicated he would consider allowing the claims if the requirements of claims 36, 46, and 56 were added to the independent claims. Applicants further submit that the cited col. 9, lines 1-67 of Hower does not teach the additional requirements of these claims. (Office Final Action, pgs. 5, 10)

The cited col. 9 of Hower discusses printer profiles having parameters and rules that may be selected to provide parameters for a print job. Nowhere does the cited col. 9 anywhere teach or suggest displaying printers and print jobs in panes as claimed and selecting print jobs and printers in the different panes to cause the selected printer to execute the selected print job as claimed. Instead, the cited col. 9 discusses manipulation and use of printer profiles.

Accordingly, the amended independent claims 30, 40, and 50 including the requirements of canceled claims 36, 46, and 56 are patentable over the cited art.

Further, claims 37, 38, 47, 48, 57, and 58 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from claims 30, 40, and 50, which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 30-59 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit that no additional fee is needed. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

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The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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